

Creative Housing Solutions LLC

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The Environment Matters

A Person-Centered Approach
to
Engineering Independence

The physical environment is not passive.



People enter into a relationship
with it for better or worse.



If the environment does not
work it is not the person's fault.

Critical Environmental Factors To Support An Individual's Desire To Live Fully In Community

- Responds to needs & desires and supports unique lifestyle.
- Located in accepting neighborhood with access to larger community.
- Meets public's expectation of health, safety, permanence and quality.

Accessibility issues are easily understood in a way
that intellectual disability related needs are not.





ANNA'S STORY

"Vigilance and Duct Tape Aren't Enough Anymore"

Families need answers, help, knowledge and to know they are not alone.



A supportive physical environment promotes individual independence and empowerment.

More Than A Home: A Place in the Community

- People can live almost anywhere but community inclusion requires opportunity for meaningful interaction.
- Select neighborhoods where people can encounter and interact with one another. This can lead to breaking down the common stereotypes of people with I/DD opening the possibility of friendship and a place in the community.





Neighborhoods Where This Is Most Likely To Occur

- Mixed age groups, lifestyles, and economic circumstances.
- Pedestrian-friendly well lit streets, sidewalks, and parks.

To have a continuum of options available that will respond to changes in circumstances across a lifespan.

Neighborhood Quality: "Welcomeness"

- Natural or man-made hazards?
- Safe neighborhood? Impact on neighbors?
- Sidewalks, street lighting and traffic control?
- Neighborhood Watch?
- Safe ride services?
- Primarily residential, mostly owner occupied?



Person-Centered: Meaningful opportunities to make decisions and exercise choice.

- Home without obstacles and impediments that restrict their control & independence.
- Evaluate from user's point of view.
- Bedrooms that are large enough.
- Adequate & appropriate number of bathrooms.
- Adequate storage.
- Address environmental sensitivities and tactile defensiveness.

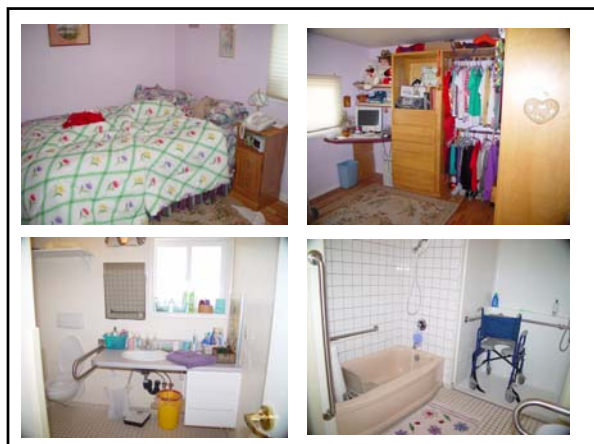
The values, principles and methodologies of person-centered planning should be applied to the design of a person's home.



An appropriate physical environment should be part of an individual's planning process.

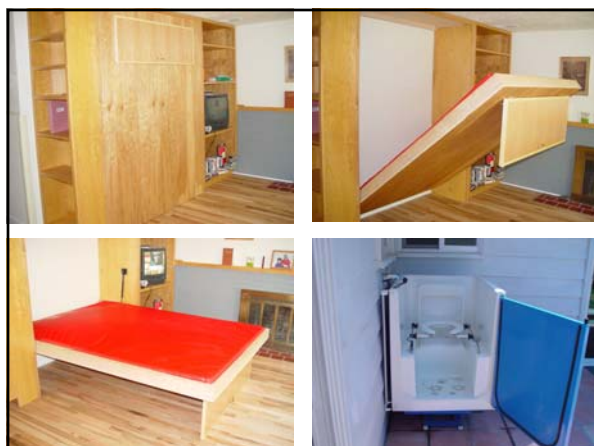


An individual's home should encourage and support their use of it in a way that satisfies them and reduces negative consequences.



Make Resources Available: For modifications that will support a person's needs, wants and lifestyle.

- Based on in-depth assessment.
- Unique interests and activities.
- Determine who lives together by friendship and mutual interests not disability labels.





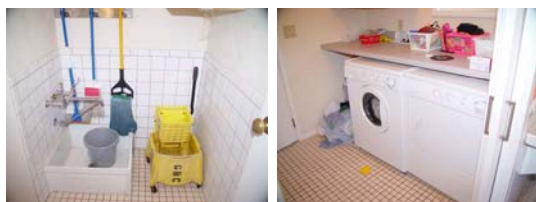
Everyone prefers to have a choice in roommates and living situations and feel safe in their home

Good Home: Standards Everyone Should Expect

- Abundant natural light.
- Useful room layouts.
- Space for relaxing, entertaining & working.
- Visitable: Wheelchair accessible bathroom.
- Support householders needs.
- Durable finishes, fixtures & hardware.
- Looks & smells good; easy to clean.
- Good ventilation.



The laundry includes a floor sink to facilitate clean-up.



Health and Safety Requirements: Building meets common sense.

- Compliance with building codes.
- Eliminate trip, slip and fall hazards.
- Recognize best worksite safety practices.
- Provide safe storage for cleaning supplies, garbage, and recycling.
- Provide safety devices, inspections, and quality control systems that provide a sense of security and reassurance.

